

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ~~An image processing apparatus, comprising:~~
input means for inputting color image data;
judging means for judging whether judgment of
5 whether a color image composed of the color image data
is a specific image has been already performed; and
image judging means for judging whether the color
image includes the specific image if the judgment has
not been performed yet.

10 2. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising:
image forming means for forming a color image
corresponding to the color image data, wherein said
15 image forming means does not form the color image or
forms an image that becomes worthless by copying if a
result of the judgment having been already performed is
that the color image composed of the color image data
is the specific image or the image judgment by the
20 image judging means shows that the color image composed
of the color image data is the specific image.

25 3. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, further comprising judgment result input means
for inputting a result of judgment of whether the color
image composed of the color image data is the specific
image, wherein judgment by the judging means is

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~~performed ahead of judgment by said image judging~~
means.

4. The image processing apparatus according to
5 claim 1, wherein said specific image is a security such
as a bank note and a traveler's check.

5. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said image judging means judges the
10 color image data by pattern matching or color matching,
or judges digital water mark information included in
the color image data.

6. The image processing apparatus according to
15 claim 3, wherein said judgment result input means
inputs a result of the judgment ahead of the color
image data.

7. The image processing apparatus according to
20 claim 1, wherein said color image data is inputted from
a scanner, or a digital camera.

8. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein the color image data is inputted via a
25 network.

9. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

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from an image generating apparatus having a forgery
judging function and an image generating apparatus not
having a forgery judging function;

output means for outputting the color image data so as to make an image forming unit form a color image by using the color image data received from said receiving means, wherein the image processing apparatus controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment in the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus having the forgery judging function, and controls formation of the color image according to a result of judgment by said judging means if the color image data is generated by the image generating apparatus not having the forgery judging function.

10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus is a scanner or a digital camera.

11. ~~The image processing apparatus according to~~
claim 9, wherein the specific image is a security such

~~as a bank note, and a traveler's check.~~

12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said image judging means judges the color image data by pattern matching or color matching, or judges digital water mark information included in the color image.

13. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the image generating apparatus having a forgery judging function transmits a result of the forgery judgment ahead of the color image data.

14. The image processing apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said receiving means receives the color image data via a network.

15. An image processing method in an image processing system where a plurality of image processing apparatuses are connected via a network, wherein, if the plurality of image processing apparatuses has a plurality of specific image judging units, after any one of the plurality of specific image judging units judges color image data, the plurality of specific image judging units does not judge the color image data.

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16. ~~An image processing method, comprising the~~
steps of:

inputting color image data;

judging whether judgment of whether a color image
5 composed of the color image data is a specific image
has been already performed; and

judging whether the color image is the specific
image if the judgment has not been performed yet.

10 17. An image processing method, comprising the
steps of:

receiving color image data from an image
generating apparatus having a forgery judging function
and an image generating apparatus not having a forgery
15 judging function;

judging whether a color image composed of the
color image data received by the receiving means is a
specific image; and

20 outputting the color image data so as to make an
image forming unit form a color image by using the
color image data received, wherein the image processing
method further comprises the steps of controlling
formation of the color image according to a result of
judgment in the image generating apparatus having the
25 forgery judging function if the color image data is
generated by the image generating apparatus having the
forgery judging function, and controlling formation of

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~~the color image according to a result of judgment by~~
the judging means if the color image data is generated
by the image generating apparatus not having the
forgery judging function.

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18. An image processing system that has a first
apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second
apparatus outputting an image by using the image
signal, wherein said first apparatus comprises first
judging means for comparing the image signal, read by
the first apparatus, with data corresponding to a
specific image; and

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wherein the second apparatus has second judging
means for comparing the image signal with data
corresponding to a specific image.

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19. The image processing system according to
claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific
image is pattern data.

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20. The image processing system according to
claim 18, wherein the data corresponding to a specific
image is digital water mark data.

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21. The image processing system according to
claim 18, wherein the first judging means and the
second judging means perform judgment of different

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specific images.

22. The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein said first judging means and said second judging means perform judgment of the same specific image, and the first judging means performs judgment by using an image signal with resolution lower than that of the second judging means.

23. The image processing system according to claim 22, wherein, if as a result of judgment with using the image signal with low resolution it is judged that the image signal corresponds to the specific image, the second judging means performs judgment by using an image signal with high resolution.

24. The image processing system according to claim 18, wherein the first apparatus is a scanner, and the second apparatus is a printer.

25. An image processing method in an image processing system that has a first apparatus inputting an image signal, and a second apparatus outputting an image by using the image signal, comprising:

a first judging step of performing a first judgment of comparing the image signal, read by the first apparatus, with data corresponding to a specific

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a second judging step of performing a second judgment of comparing the image signal with data corresponding to a specific image in the second apparatus.

27. The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is digital water mark data.

28. The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said first judgment and said second judgment perform judgment of different specific images.

29. The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said first judgment and said second judgment perform judgment of the same specific image, and the first judgment performs judgment by using an image signal with resolution lower than that of the second judgment.

30. The image processing method according to claim 29, wherein, if as a result of judgment with

using the image signal with low resolution it is judged that an image signal correspond to the specific image, the second judgment performs judgment by using an image signal with high resolution.

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~~31. The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein said first apparatus is a scanner, and the second apparatus is a printer.~~

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32. The image processing method according to claim 25, wherein the data corresponding to a specific image is down-loaded from a computer.

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33. An image processing method, wherein, if an image signal inputted is not a specific image as a result of judgment of whether the image signal inputted corresponds to the specific image, the image signal is stored as an image file.

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34. The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein said specific image is a security, and at least one out of color, a pattern, and a digital water mark is used for the judgment.

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35. The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein information of a specific image having been already judged is added to the image file.

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~~36. The image processing method according to~~
claim 35, wherein the information of a specific image
having been already judged is protected.

5 37. The image processing method according to
claim 33, wherein, when an image corresponding to the
image file is printed, it is judged whether the image
is a specific image.

10 38. The image processing method according to
claim 35, wherein the information of a specific image
having been already judged is added to the image file,
and judgment at the time of printing is performed on
the basis of the additional information.

15 39. The image processing method according to
claim 38, wherein judgment of a specific image having
been already judged is omitted on the basis of the
additional information.

20 40. An image processing method, comprising the
steps of:
 obtaining information that is added to an image
file and denotes whether it has been already judged
25 whether the image file includes a specific image; and
 judging the image file on specific images, which
have not been judged yet, if the judgment has been

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~~already performed, and judging the image file on~~
specific images, which can be used for judgment, if no
judgment has been performed.

5 41. The image processing method according to
claim 40, wherein the specific image is a security, and
at least one out of color, a pattern, and a digital
water mark is used for the judgment.

10 42. The image processing method according to
claim 40, wherein the information is protected.

43. The image processing method according to claim 40, further comprising the steps of:

15 judging that an apparatus generating the image
file does not have a specific image judging function;
and

generating information for supplying the specific
image judging function to the apparatus generating the
20 image file.

44. The image processing method according to claim 43, wherein the information for supplying the specific image judging function is address information.

45. The image processing method according to claim 33, wherein the image processing method is

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~~implemented in a scanner driver.~~

46. The image processing method according to claim 40, wherein the image processing method is
5 implemented by a printer driver.

47. An image processing apparatus realizing the image processing method according to claim 33.

48. A storage medium storing the image file
10 according to claim 33.

49. An image processing apparatus comprising:
judging means for judging whether image data
15 inputted includes a specific image;

additional information storing means for storing a result of said judging means as additional information;

output means for outputting the image data as an image; and

20 control means for controlling an image output by said output means on the basis of the additional information.

50. The image processing apparatus according to
25 claim 49, wherein said additional information further includes at least any one of presence of a result of judgment of whether image data includes the specific

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image, and a control method of image data judged as the specific image.

51. The image processing apparatus according to
5 claim 49, wherein said control means controls the
output means lest said output means should output image
data that has not been judged by said judging means.

52. The image processing apparatus according to
10 claim 51, wherein, assuming that the image data has not
been judged by said judging means if there is not
additional information corresponding to the image data,
said control means controls the output means lest said
output means should output the image data.

53. The image processing apparatus according to
claim 51, wherein, if the additional information
includes information denoting that image data
corresponding to the additional information has not
20 been judged by said judging means, said control means
controls the output means lest said output means should
output the image data.

54. The image processing apparatus according to
25 claim 49, wherein, if the additional information
includes information denoting that image data
corresponding to the additional information includes a

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specific image, said control means controls said output means lest said output means should output the image data.

5 55. The image processing apparatus according to claim 54, wherein, if the additional information includes information denoting that image data corresponding to the additional information includes a specific image, said control means inform a user of
10 that fact.

 56. The image processing apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising modifying means for modifying an image judged as an image including a
15 specific image by the judging means, wherein the additional information includes information denoting that image data is modified by said modifying means.

 57. The image processing apparatus according to claim 56, wherein, if the additional information includes information denoting that image data corresponding to the additional information is modified, said control means controls said output means lest said output means should output the image data.

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 58. The image processing apparatus according to claim 57, wherein, if the additional information

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includes information denoting that image data corresponding to the additional information is modified, said control means inform a user of that fact.

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59. The image processing apparatus according to claim 49, further comprising storing means for storing image data inputted, wherein, when plural sets of the image data inputted are printed out by said output means, the control means performs control of repeatedly reading image data, stored in said storing means, according to the additional information.

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60. The image processing apparatus according to claim 59, wherein, if it is judged by said judging means that the image data inputted includes a specific image, said control means performs any one of inhibiting storage into said storing means, storing the image data in said storing means after correcting the image data, and deleting the image data stored in said storing means.

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61. The image processing apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said judging means judges whether the image data includes a specific image by judging whether specific digital water mark information is inserted in the image data.

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62. The image processing apparatus according to claim 49, wherein said judging means judges whether the image data includes a specific image on the basis of a similarity degree between characteristics, obtained
5 from the image data, and characteristics of the specific image set beforehand.

63. An image processing method comprising:
a judging step of judging whether image data
10 inputted includes a specific image;
an additional information storing step of storing a result at the judging step as additional information by storing means;
an output step of outputting the image data as an
15 image; and
a control step of controlling an image output by the output step on the basis of the additional information.

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